

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A thin client computer connected to a server computer having server software resident thereon, said thin client computer comprising:

a local storage device associated with the thin client computer for storing an operating system, wherein the operating system starts the thin client computer;

a display;

a downloading device for retrieving the desktop from the server computer, wherein the desktop is displayed on said display,

wherein the operating system and the server software control operation of the thin client computer by way of managing a session operative at the server; and

wherein the operating system supports input and output devices for the thin client computer.

2. The thin client computer of claim 1 wherein the operating system cannot alone operate the thin client computer.

3. The thin client computer of claim 1 wherein the connection to the server is made via a network interface card on the thin computer to a local area network.

4. The thin client computer of claim 1 wherein a predetermined amount of memory is apportioned on the server computer for the thin client computer when a session begins.

5. The thin client computer of claim 1 wherein the input and output devices are selected from among the group consisting of speakers, a microphone, a CD ROM, a hard drive, a floppy disk drive and a DVD drive.

6. The thin client computer of claim 1 wherein the display provides approximately 16,000,000 display colors.

7. The thin client computer of claim 1 wherein software applications are resident on the server computer and are published to the thin client computer for use by the thin client computer during an operating session.

8. The thin client computer of claim 1 wherein the server computer controls the display refresh process.

9. The thin client computer of claim 1 wherein input/output device drivers are resident on the server computer for use by the thin client computer during an operating session.

10. The thin client computer of claim 9 wherein the input/output device drivers are published to the thin client computer during an operating session.

11. The thin client computer of claim 1 further comprising a video driver for controlling the display, and wherein the video driver operates in a 32 bit mode.

12. A method for operating a thin client computer including a display, a plurality of input and output devices and an operating system stored on the thin client computer, wherein the thin client computer is connected to a server computer having server software resident thereon, said method comprising:

booting the thin client computer using the operating system;

retrieving the desktop from the server computer, wherein the desktop is displayed on the display,

controlling the thin client computer by managing a session between the thin client computer and the server computer; and

operating the input and output devices by way of the operating system.

13. The thin client computer of claim 12 wherein the operating system cannot alone operate the thin client computer.

14. The thin client computer of claim 12 wherein a predetermined amount of memory is apportioned on the server computer for the thin client computer when a session begins.

15. The thin client computer of claim 12 wherein the input and output devices are selected from among the group consisting of speakers, a microphone, a CD ROM, a hard drive, a floppy disk drive and a DVD drive.

16. The thin client computer of claim 12 further comprising a video driver for controlling the display, and wherein the video driver operates in a 32 bit mode to provide approximately 16,000,000 display colors.

17. The thin client computer of claim 12 wherein software applications are resident on the server computer for use by the thin client computer during an operating session.

18. The thin client computer of claim 17 wherein the software applications are published to the thin client computer during an operating session.

19. The thin client computer of claim 12 wherein input and output device drivers are resident on the server computer for use by the operating system during an
5 operating session.

20. The thin client computer of claim 19 wherein the input and output device drivers are published to the thin client computer during an operating session.